

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 641 Conrad Drive

N/A

not for publication

city or town Kalispell

N/A

vicinity

state Montana

code MT

county Flathead

code 029

zip code 59901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
3	2	structures
1	1	objects
8	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival (Mausoleum)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: stone

walls: stone

roof: stone

other: concrete, metal

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery was established by the wife of Kalispell founder Charles E. Conrad after his death in 1902. To pave the way for the cemetery's founding, Mrs. Conrad saw that legislation was in place providing a perpetual care system for Montana. The cemetery located near the eastern edge of the town of Kalispell, encompasses 87 acres, serves the public, and includes more than 17,850 burials. The expansive cemetery is sited on a large knoll, or promontory, overlooking the Flathead Valley. The Stillwater River is located less than ¼ mile east of the property and the confluence of the Stillwater and Whitefish rivers occurs less than ½ mile to the north. The Salish Mountains are visible to the west and the Mission and Swan mountains are to the east. A. W. Hobert of Minneapolis, superintendent of the famed Lakewood Cemetery, laid the plans in 1903, basing his design on a classic Rural Garden Landscape. Winding driveways, trees, and shrubs enhance the breathtaking overview of the valley below and blend into the natural setting. The park-like setting includes great sweeps of lawn studded with inconspicuous embedded markers providing a stunning framework for the Conrad Mausoleum and the stones and upright monuments that spread over the grounds. Careful stewardship has assured that the Conrad Cemetery remains untouched by modern encroachments.

Narrative Description

Following a classic "rural garden" park design first popular in the 19th century, the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery sprawls over 87 acres of gently undulating hills amid great sweeps of green. This beautiful oasis on the east side of Kalispell, Montana, celebrates the lives of its founders, Charles and Alicia Conrad, and the hundreds of people they touched during their lifetimes and long after. Conrad Drive, a county roadway, leads to the approach which winds around to the cemetery's entrance.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Spatial Arrangement and Circulation Pattern (one contributing site): Entering through a modern chain link fence on the south side of the property, the cemetery's expansive natural landscape opens up. The site has been carefully preserved and enhanced over the years by the planting of native trees and shrubs and massaging the existing vegetation. Native deciduous trees and pines spread across the grounds. Periodic replacement planting throughout its history has kept the cemetery vibrant. Large native juniper trees, predating the cemetery, are scattered throughout the grounds. Other original vegetation includes spruce, fir, tamarack, and ponderosa pines. These occur in a natural random pattern as they do throughout the Flathead Valley. Plantings of trees include American elm, Norway maple, silver maple, weeping and paper birch trees, some in clusters and some individually planted throughout the grounds.¹ Small chokecherry trees and shrubs, part of the natural landscape, also cluster in profusion across the grounds. Plantings of shrubs and smaller trees during the historic period include lilacs, old style white spirea, and mock orange. Many of these date to the early 1900s. The driveways, originally gravel and now paved with blacktop, gracefully loop around each of the cemetery's eleven sections often aligning with the contours of the hillside, a typical characteristic of the rural cemetery movement. The 1903 plan included nine sections, A through I (Please see the Continuation Sheets for a visual representation of

¹Personal communication with cemetery sexton James Korn, July 23, 2012. When some of the birch trees had to be replaced, tree rings on the removed trees dated them to 100 years old, matching the date of the cemetery's original landscaping.

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the circulation system). Section I was further divided into smaller sections: L, M, and J during the historic period circa 1925. Section K, the location of the veterans' monument, was developed out of unused land at the west edge post World War I. Each carefully planned section offers fresh vistas and a separate, orderly array of monuments, embedded markers, and commemorative stones.

The cemetery, located on a large knoll 80-100 feet above the surrounding valley, lies at Kalispell's highest elevation, surrounded by soaring mountain peaks. Charles Conrad and his wife Alicia (Lettie) chose this site for its lofty position, with sweeping views of the Flathead Valley and the growing town of Kalispell, for which Charles is credited as founder. The northeastern end of the landform on which the cemetery sits narrows significantly to a thin grassy point, protected on three sides by dense wooded forest of deciduous trees and native pines. It was on this grassy point that Charles Conrad asked to be buried. A few days before his death, he directed the purchase of the 10 acres surrounding the scenic point and began to plan the Conrad Mausoleum. It sits in the center of this narrow strip, facing the expansive cemetery to the south/southwest. Charles drew a detailed sketch of the mausoleum. He also drew a map of the grassy point, indicating his desired placement of the mausoleum. Built of red Grinnell argillite from a quarry near Essex, Montana, the structure follows Conrad's plan. Completed in 1908, it includes space for eleven family members. Those interred include Charles, Lettie, their daughter Katherine, their son Charles D. and his son Billy who died in a hunting accident. Four spaces remain unoccupied. Other family members, including daughter Alicia Conrad Campbell and her husband George, are also buried on the point but outside the mausoleum. Their markers are simple, flat granite so as not to obstruct the approach to the mausoleum, nor the view of the cemetery to the south.

Conrad Mausoleum (one contributing building): This imposing structure is simple and understated, constructed of stone and marble in the Greek Revival style. It measures 12 ft. by 18 ft. in size and stands 18 ft. tall. It is visible from a distance from the driveway approach and dominates this portion of the cemetery. The south façade, or front, features four Doric columns of gray marble that contrast with the red argillite walls. The columns are paired, one pair at either side of the centered doorway. A plain marble architrave and cornice continues around all sides of the structure. The name CONRAD is centered on the cornice. The flat roof, also of marble, displays a pronounced overhang. A marble step spanning the front façade provides access to the heavy double iron doors, opening at the center. A decorative iron panel adorns the bottom quarter of each door. The upper 3/4s of each door displays vertical metal bars separated by three horizontal bars serving as cross members. The metal bars front a solid backing making the door heavy and secure. The red argillite walls consist of cut stone, brick fashion, in varying sizes and laid in a random pattern. The east and west walls each contain one small window with marble surrounds and metal bars. A small metal louvered vent occurs at the roofline on each side. The rear façade contains only a small roofline vent. There is a water table in the stonework at foundation which is a continuation of the argillite.

"Fairy Steps" (one contributing structure): The very northern tip of this promontory affords a panoramic vista of the juncture of the Whitefish and Stillwater rivers and valley. From this tip, a steep cliff leads down to the Stillwater River below. Small and very steep stone steps—some cut from the bedrock and some that appear to have been laid—switchback at certain points and lead down from the tip of the promontory to a historic carriage road. The steps were crafted as the mausoleum was under construction between 1902 and 1908. This portion of the hillside is buttressed with concrete and stone retaining walls of the same vintage to prevent undercutting and erosion. Midway down the steps, a stone bench offers rest to the winded climber. The "Fairy Steps" gave Lettie Conrad private access to the family mausoleum. Hugging the base of the promontory, just outside the cemetery boundary line, remnants of a carriage road wind along the valley floor.

Conrad Cemetery (one contributing site): Immediately south of the mausoleum and "fairy steps," the narrow point of the landform opens and widens to afford a sweeping overview of the cemetery grounds. From this vantage point, the various types of markers form an art gallery of sculpture. These include older obelisk style

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monuments, square granite tombstones, sculptured adornments, stately marble memorial stones, and flat embedded markers. This effect follows the purpose of the rural garden cemetery, intended for public enjoyment of the monuments and their artistry. Stones and monuments in the cemetery date from 1902 to the present.

As part of a prescribed plan, cemetery policy governs the types of monuments allowed in the various sections. The individual sections and the types of markers they include are described below. Small scale features within each section are afforded a brief description but are not counted toward resource totals provided in Section 5. Expansive sections of flat, or embedded, markers are characteristic of the “lawn” or “memorial park” cemetery which evolved in America in the later 19th century.

Section A: This grassy section remains open for later development.

Section B: This section, called the Angel Garden, is for the internment of cremation burials. A sculptured angel on a concrete pedestal, approximately seven feet tall from its base to the top, was added in 2006 and sits in the center of the section.

Section C: This section, like A, remains open for new burials.

Section D: This section contains only flat embedded markers. These are flat stone bases set with a bronze plaque bearing names and dates. They are level with the ground surface and blend into the lawn.

Section E: This section contains only flat embedded markers.

Section F: This section includes both embedded and upright markers.

Section G: Directly across the driveway to the immediate south of the Conrad Mausoleum, this section includes both upright monuments and embedded markers.

Section H: Adjacent to Section G, this area contains only upright monuments and includes the tallest monument in the cemetery, an obelisk dedicated to Governor R. B. Smith who died in 1908.

Section I: Section I marks the southern end of the original cemetery sections as planned in the early 1900s.

Sections L, M and J: Section I was further divided into these sections which include both upright and flat markers. Section L, “Babyland,” is specifically for babies and infants under one year.

Section K: Section K is reserved for veterans who wish to be buried with their comrades in arms. Markers are all embedded and are inconspicuous at a distance. The earliest burials in this section date to 1942.

Veterans Memorial (one contributing object): A white marble monument in Section K is a cemetery focal point and draws the eye upon first entering the grounds. The monument consists of three adjoining large, thin, bright white marble panels. The entire panel measures 19 ft. long. The two lateral panels are 5 ft. 6 in. tall and the center panel measures 15 ft. tall. Square fluted pilasters flank the center panel which is finished at the top with denticulate ornamentation. The center panel is emblazoned with a star encircled by a wreath and displays the following dedication:

DEDICATED TO
THE EVERLASTING MEMEMORY
OF THOSE FROM
FLATHEAD COUNTY
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE
OF THEIR COUNTRY

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Both sides of the center panel are identical. Names are inscribed on two faces of one panel while one side of the other is blank. The U. S. Casket Flag flies continuously at the top of the hill commemorating the service and dedication of all Veterans. Each year the flag is given to the family it commemorated and a new flag raised. Section K and the associated monument was added in the 1940s at the insistence of Mrs. Harry Beck whose husband was a former sexton of the cemetery. Markers in this section are all flat. Six veterans of the 163rd Montana Infantry Regiment, Company F, from Flathead County are buried in this section. They fought at Papua, New Guinea in the battle to secure Sanananda Point, the first major defeat of the Japanese in the Pacific Theater during WWII in January 1943.

Water Tank (one contributing structure): A steel water tank sits at the cemetery's highest point between Sections C and D. In 1936, it replaced the original wooden tank on this same site. The huge tank, bright white in color, has an interior ladder. Manufactured by the Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company, it is a highly visible component of the cemetery, especially since it sits upon a barren hilltop overlooking a less sparsely landscaped portion of the cemetery.²

Surveyors Markers (one contributing object): In addition to the above described features, the grounds also include literally thousands of original concrete surveyors' markers scattered throughout the cemetery grounds. They date from 1903 through the period of significance and were installed when the cemetery was formally laid out and for each internment. These circular markers are scored in the center, encased in metal, and measure approximately 4 inches in diameter. These markers are counted as one contributing object.

Gas Shed (one contributing building): A garage, referred to as the "gas shed" after its current use, sits next to a modern maintenance shed. The gas shed historically housed landscaping tools and early vehicles. It originally sat closer to the center of the cemetery but was moved to its present location in the 1920s. The building, which measures 16 ft. by 40 ft. in size, is topped by a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. Cedar planks clad the walls. The west elevation contains a wooden overhead door fronted by a non-functioning metal garage door; the wooden door was added in the 1930s and the non-operable metal door hung in the 1940s or 1950s. Just south on the same elevation is a mandoor. The overhead metal garage doors the shed presently displays replaced the original smaller opening in the 1930s or 1940s. The building dates to the transition from horses to automobiles, around the 1910s.

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Maintenance Shed (one noncontributing building): Vehicles, landscaping tools, and other items used to care for the grounds are housed in this building. It sports a gable roof and displays a simple metal rectangular shape. The shed measures 54 ft. by 45 ft. and was installed on the grounds in 1972.

Cremation Memorial (one noncontributing structure): A modern cremation memorial of reddish stone similar to the argillite of the Conrad Mausoleum, and outlined in gray stone sits in a newly identified space referred to as Section N east of the main drive opposite Section G. It contains 80 receptacle drawers for receiving ashes. The memorial, which measures 36 ft. long by 6 ft. tall by 2 ft. 4 in. deep, was constructed in the mid-1980s.

Niche Wall (one noncontributing structure): this feature consists of a brick and red stone columbarium with 100 spaces for ashes and three marble benches for visitors. It rests in a small newly designated area referred to as Section O. The niche wall measures 32 ft. long by 4 ft. tall by 2 ft. 3 in. deep. It was constructed in 2006.

² C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery Association Minutes (Six volumes, 1905-1988) vol. 2 Director's meeting, February 29, 1936 at the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, Kalispell, MT.

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Memory Wall (one noncontributing object): The driveway winds around this new structure, a dark green granite “perpetual memory wall” on the north side of the driveway across from Section G. The wall measures 7 feet tall by 18 ½ feet wide. It contains the names and memorial inscriptions of those whose ashes are scattered or whose remains are buried elsewhere. It was constructed in 2006.

Integrity

The C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery remains today as it was originally laid out by landscape architect A. W. Hobert. Mature trees and natural vegetation make it a living landscape. The cemetery retains a feeling and setting evocative of when it was originally conceived. The forethought in the early stages of the cemetery’s history to acquire a large amount of property has enabled methodical and well-conceived development of different areas of the cemetery allowing the development to stay true to the original design. The park-like design entwined with the natural beauty of the area, results in a location that is just as vibrant and stunning today as it was when originally conceived. Although modern columbaria and memorials have been added and Sections K-M have been created by subdividing existing property during the historic period, the cemetery retains its original setting, feeling, and intent as a rural garden and park. Looping driveways as originally planned and tended grounds that harmonize with naturally-occurring native trees and shrubs invite the public to enjoy its art, its pastoral ambience, and pay respects to those who rest there. Use of the cemetery continues to the present and is thus a work in progress, as Lettie Conrad wanted it to be.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1903-1962

Significant Dates

1903, 1905, 1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Arthur W. Hobert

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance begins in 1903 with the design and initial construction of the cemetery and ends in 1962. The date of 1905 reflects the year the Ninth Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 3, a bill providing the foundation for a perpetual care system for cemeteries in Montana. The Cemetery Association acquired its final property to the west resulting in land for future expansion in 1951.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Criteria Consideration D: Justification

The C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery is the legacy of Charles and Alicia (Lettie) Conrad and especially represents Lettie's foresight and hard work. Designed as a Rural Garden Landscape, A. W. Hobert modeled the plan after 19th century cemeteries such as Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Hobert was superintendent. The creation of the cemetery prompted the first legislation outlining perpetual care in Montana. It became the first cemetery in Montana to successfully promise its clients eternal rest uninterrupted by urban encroachment or financial hardship. The Conrads conceived the idea that a beautiful burial place should be accessible to all, and Lettie followed through with that idea. The Conrad Cemetery served as a prototype for other Montana cemeteries and is today a place of democracy where all people are welcome.

The Conrad family put down its roots in Kalispell while impacting the socio-economic climate of northwestern Montana. Charles Conrad's far-reaching business endeavors spanned the 1860s to the time of his death, from freighting buffalo robes out of Fort Benton and delivering military payroll to banking, real estate, and myriad civic improvements. Together the Conrads saw to the preservation of the Allard-Pablo buffalo herd. Lettie Conrad likewise was beloved by people of all walks of life and ever ready to help those in need. From her contributions to the Red Cross to hosting needy children, her concern and graciousness left an indelible impression wherever her travels took her. The Conrads' daughter, Alicia, kept her mother's vision by donating the family home to the City of Kalispell in 1974. The Conrad legacy coalesced in the founding of the Conrad Cemetery which remains today a living landscape and a well deserved tribute to Kalispell's founding family.

The sweeping views, looping driveways, and monuments spanning more than a century perpetuate the intent of America's first park-like cemeteries. Not only is the Conrad Cemetery a beautiful, restful place for artistic enjoyment, it is a place of history where people and deeds long passed serve as examples to the living.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery is significant at the state level as a prototype of perpetual care cemeteries for Montana. Its creation necessitated passing state legislation setting up this framework. Charles and Alicia Conrad had a great impact on the financial and social settling of northwestern Montana and the founding of the town of Kalispell. The cemetery represents the culmination of the Conrads' legacy. The cemetery is a stellar example of a rural garden landscape, designed by landscape architect Arthur W. Hobert of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The cemetery is eligible for listing under criterion A and C.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery is significant at the state level because its founding directly precipitated the passing of the first cemetery legislation allowing management and perpetual care in Montana. In 1905, the Ninth Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 3, "An Act to Provide for the Formation of Cemetery Associations, to Define their Powers and Duties and Provide for their Management and Control." This

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innovative legislation governed all Montana perpetual care cemeteries and established the boards and caretaking entities as legal, nonprofit associations and/or corporations.

The wealthy Conrad family played an important role in the settlement of northwestern Montana and particularly the founding of the town of Kalispell. Charles E. Conrad was heavily involved in the freighting business in Fort Benton, in the establishing of Fort MacLeod, in preserving the last remaining herd of wild buffalo, in the platting of the Kalispell townsite, and prominent in the banking business in western Montana. His wife Alicia is directly responsible for cemetery legislation. The cemetery was established because of her planning and management, a most unusual accomplishment for a woman in the early 1900s.

The careful planning and professional design of the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery make it one of the state's most impressive park-like cemeteries. Landscape architect A. W. Hobert of Minneapolis followed the natural topography of the promontory, expertly crafting the grounds as a rural garden as it had evolved in the United States by the early 20th century. He drew upon both English and French design elements, sculpting the cemetery as a Rural Garden Landscape. The original grounds remain as Hobert planned them, and subsequent expansions within the historic period preserve the same design.

The cemetery demonstrates the rural garden park as it evolved over the 19th century in America to the lawn , or memorial park, cemetery. It includes these characteristic elements: elevated siting on Kalispell's highest topographic point; sweeping vistas; winding driveways; use of nature enhanced with carefully planned landscaping; open grassy spaces with unobtrusive embedded markers; artistically pleasing spatial arrangements of flush markers, upright tombstones, and monuments; and the promise of perpetual care.

For the legislation that had an impact on cemeteries across the state and the Conrad family's contributions to the settlement and economy of Kalispell and northwestern Montana, and for its architectural significance as a rural garden landscape "park," the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery is eligible for listing under Criterion A and C.

HISTORIC CONTEXT FOR THE FLATHEAD VALLEY

Geologic History of the Flathead Valley – Conrad Cemetery Area

In the Kalispell area, the Flathead Valley is bounded by the Swan Range to the east and Salish Range to the west. The bedrock of the region consists of Precambrian metasediments, ranging from 800 to 1200 million years in age. During the Pleistocene period, beginning about 3 million years ago, a large outlet glacier flowed south from Canada within the Rocky Mountain Trench. Joined by alpine valley glaciers originating in the higher, mountainous regions, the glacier reached a maximum extent near present-day St. Ignatius. During retreat of the most recent Pleistocene glaciation, damming by the terminal moraine at Polson caused the short-term formation of Glacial Lake Flathead across the area, from Polson north into the Stillwater River Valley. As a result of this glacial and post-glacial activity, unconsolidated glacial, glacial-fluvial, eolian, and lacustrine deposits mantle the Flathead Valley floor.

The immediate area of the Conrad Cemetery is a remnant of the sheet of sand and gravel deposited across the Flathead Valley by numerous meltwater streams flowing from the last retreating glacier. The modern Whitefish and Stillwater rivers cut down into this layer, but several higher, island-like areas, such as the one that encompasses the cemetery, still remain. The present-day Stillwater River flows on the north and east side of the cemetery promontory, and a former channel is present to the west in the area of Woodland Park.

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The workings of natural processes provide a beautiful setting for the history of those resting in the Conrad Cemetery to be placed within the deeper history of geologic time.³

Early History of the Flathead Valley

Archaeological evidence at ancient sites and their associated artifacts suggest that the first human traces in the Flathead Watershed date to over 10,000 years ago. While glacial scouring has erased most physical traces, traditional tribal creation stories and oral traditions mirror the area's geological history.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, bands of Kootenay lived at the head of Flathead Lake and took advantage of its bounty, fishing and hunting the area. These people were historically associated with the Ktunaxa, which was divided into two subgroups: the Upper Kootenay and the Lower Kootenay. The upper group lived in the mountainous regions of Canada and followed the buffalo. The lower group were fishermen and hunters and gatherers in what became the United States. They also hunted larger game and buffalo. The Lower Kootenay were water survivalists who knew how to harvest salmon, trout, and other fish. The climate in the Flathead Watershed was prohibitive and the people did not have permanent settlements; rather, these bands traveled through seasonally utilizing what the area had to provide. The two bands, or tribes, that today make up the Lower Kootenay in the United States are the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe centered near Elmo, Montana and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.⁴

Montana's Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe includes the Salish and Pend'Oreille people whose traditional lifeways were similar. They harvested camas and bitterroot and other edible plants that were staples in their diets. They harvested the fish of the rivers streams and lakes, and hunted large game including buffalo. The name of the Pend d'Oreille people, known as Q'lispé in their own language, has been anglicized to "Kalispel." The Salish, whom Europeans misnamed Flathead, and the Pend d'Oreille roamed over 22 million acres.⁵

These tribal people who lived peacefully in the Flathead Watershed were profoundly affected by contact with Europeans. Guns, horses, and sweeping epidemics introduced by European, American and Canadian explorers, trappers and traders decimated these tribal groups and others across Montana, bringing profound changes and the eventual end of traditional lifeways.

Because the Flathead Valley was very isolated and difficult to access, it was therefore one of the last areas of the trans-Mississippi west to be settled by whites. Rugged mountains surrounded Flathead Lake which further hindered settlement and made for brutally cold winters. Trappers and traders passed through northwestern Montana and the Flathead Valley on the heels of Lewis and Clark after their historic trek across Montana in 1805 and 1806. Between 1809 and 1811, David Thompson of the Northwest Company established three trading posts in the region. These were Saleesh House, near present-day Thompson Falls, Spokane House near Hope, Idaho, and Kullyspel House—after the name of the local band of Indians—on Lake Pend d'Oreille in northern Idaho. Kullyspel House was abandoned in 1811, but the city of Kalispell takes its name from this group.⁶

³ Geological overview contributed by Dr. Lex Blood, Professor Emeritus . Flathead County Community College, and Judith Pressmar.

⁴ *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook*, "Brief History of the People" at http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/cultural_history/history_people.shtml accessed on 7/15/12.

⁵ *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook*, "Q'lispé (Pend d'Oreille or Kalispel) and Séliš (Salish or Flathead) People" at http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/cultural_history/history_people.shtml accessed on 7/15/12.

⁶ McKay, 1993; Falkner (HRA) 2011.

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Around 1812, the Hudson's Bay Company established Howse House, an outpost near the head of Flathead Lake. In the early 1820s, the Northwest and Hudson's Bay companies merged and maintained a presence in the Flathead Valley until the 1870s. Technically they were illegally operating on American soil after the Treaty of 1846 established the United States border at the 49th parallel. Others passed through, but none stayed in this remote area. Christian missionaries, especially Catholic Jesuits, entered the Pacific Northwest and western Montana, operating at St. Mary's in the Bitterroot Valley (1841), at St. Ignatius Mission (1854), and at Cataldo in Idaho (1850).⁷

The U.S. government sponsored civilian and military surveys, scouting routes for future roads and railroads that would establish transportation corridors to connect the Mississippi River with the Pacific Ocean and expedite future settlement of the Northwest. Isaac Stevens, governor of the Washington Territory which then included Montana, negotiated the Hellgate Treaty at Council Grove near present-day Missoula. This treaty established the huge Jocko Reservation for Salish, Pend d' Oreille, and Kootenai peoples. All but one group of Bitterroot Salish, under Chief Charlo, moved onto the reservation. In 1891, U.S. soldiers forcibly marched the remaining Salish to the Jocko under armed guard.⁸

White settlement of the upper Flathead Valley began in 1862 when gold discoveries in British Columbia's Kootenai District brought miners and freighters headed north to the new gold fields. A few white settlers took advantage of the abundant timber and agricultural potential, but it was not until the 1880s that settlement became more feasible in this isolated area. Travel further opened the valley with the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad at Ravalli in 1883 and the advent of steam boating on Flathead Lake in 1885.

Prior to the settlement of the valley by Euro-Americans, the Flathead, Kootenai and Upper Pend d'Oreille negotiated the Hell Gate Treaty with the governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for the Territory of Washington in July of 1855.. The treaty reduced the tribal territory, which included parts of western Montana, Idaho, British Columbia and Wyoming, to a relatively small area located in Western Montana. The area defined in the treaty became the Flathead Reservation, and was set aside for the exclusive use and benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. The treaty divided Flathead Lake into two halves, with the southern portion set aside as part of the reservation.

Although the reservation was created for the exclusive use of the tribes, non-Indians also coveted the land, and with a majority of the available lands in the West already settled in the early 1900s, grazing and agricultural lands were especially desirable. As a result, under the General Allotment Act or Dawes Act, open lands on the reservation not settled by Indians were opened to non-Indians on November 1, 1910. Under the act, the federal government surveyed the reservation and allotted individual tribal members a specific amount of acreage, which replaced communal tribal holdings. Today, the Flathead Reservation measures approximately 1.3 million acres. The tribes have over 7,000 enrolled members, with approximately two-thirds living on or near the reservation.

Demersville/Kalispell development

Selish (1881) and Ashley (1884) were the first white settlements in the Flathead Valley. Selish was first known as Dooley's Landing, near the Therriault Ferry on the west side of the Flathead River. Ashley, named for pioneer Joe Ashley, was situated on Ashley Creek, west of what is now Kalispell. Demersville, established in 1887, was the primary settlement from 1887 to 1891. French Canadian T. J. Demers, a cattleman and freighter, founded the town on the Flathead River at the head of navigation 20 miles upriver at the north end of Flathead Lake. Its

⁷ All three are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Cataldo is a National Historic Landmark.

⁸ Ellen Baumler, St. Mary's Mission Historic District, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2010.

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strategic location gave Demersville preeminence among the other local towns. With a population of 1500 in 1891, it was a place where ranchers, freighters, gamblers, and miners congregated to spend their money on saloons, brothels, dance houses, and theatres. With its supply center at Missoula, 125 miles away, goods were freighted by train to Ravalli, then by wagon to Flathead Lake, and transported by steamboat to Demersville.

Great Northern Railway president James J. Hill decided to extend his line to Seattle, Washington, from St. Paul, Minnesota. As the tracks approached the Flathead Valley, Demersville was confident that it would be chosen as the division point assuring the town's permanency. Demersville served as supply point and headquarters for road grading contractors, bolstering the local economy. As local towns all vied for designation as division point, Frank Linderman, an early settler observed, "Demersville saw a rosy future and preened herself accordingly."⁹

Local legend has it that James J. Hill, through Charles E. Conrad as his representative, tried to buy lots in Columbia Falls, but landowners wanted too high a price. Hill met with Conrad who expressed his desire to move to the Flathead Valley. Conrad was anxious to work with Hill to establish a suitable townsite. So Hill told Conrad to buy a townsite and he would build the railroad to it. Conrad purchased several homesteads, including that of Reverend George McVey Fisher, making the reverend a wealthy man. The articles of incorporation were signed at St. Paul on January 20, 1891. Conrad was among the six incorporators Hill chose. It fell to Conrad, as treasurer of the Kalispell Townsite Company, to organize the survey and platting of the townsite.¹⁰

The new town of Kalispell was platted in "T-town" form with Main Street perpendicular to one side of the proposed tracks. Some who doubted that the railroad would ever touch the new settlement dubbed it "Collapsetown" and "Wait a Spell," but even so lots sold for as much as \$1,250. Construction boomed on Main Street with typical first generation wooden frame buildings, while many businesses were moved on log rollers four miles across the prairie from once-thriving Demersville. On New Year's Day of 1892, the tracks of the Great Northern Railway officially reached Kalispell. Banners proclaimed "Kalispell and St. Paul United by Steel," and "beer and whiskey were as free as the fresh air." Kalispell was designated county seat of the new Flathead County carved from Missoula County in 1893. Later bolstered by the homesteading era, the lumber industry, and tourism, Kalispell became an important trade, financial, and service center. Although the railroad moved its division point to Whitefish in 1904, Kalispell continued to prosper.¹¹

Charles E. Conrad

Charles Edward Conrad was born in 1850, on the family plantation in the Shendandoah Valley of Warren County, Virginia. He was the third of thirteen children. His father served as a colonel in the Virginia State Militia during the Civil War, and despite their very young ages, Charles and his brother William followed their father into service. All three survived but the family fortune was lost and the land ruined leaving the Conrads in poverty. In 1868, at 18, Charles and his brother William, then 20, headed West to Fort Benton to seek their fortunes. Charles had briefly clerked in a mercantile back home in Virginia and acquired a taste for business. They arrived at Fort Benton with one silver dollar between them. They flipped the coin to see who would go on to Helena to assess its job potential and who would stay in Fort Benton. Charles stayed and hired on with the I. G. Baker Company. The Baker brothers had also suffered similarly in the South during the Civil War and likely felt some kinship to Charles' plight. They promised him with hard work, he could buy into the company. The

⁹ Linderman, Frank B., *Montana Adventurer: The Recollections of Frank Linderman* (Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1968) 57.

¹⁰ James E. Murphy, *Half Interest in a Silver Dollar: The Saga of Charles E. Conrad* (Missoula, MT: Mountain Press, 1983) 145; *Great Falls Tribune*, March 3, 1937.

¹¹ For detailed synopsis of Kalispell's early history see Kath MacKay's historic context in the Kalispell MPD.

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Bakers' merchandising and trading network eventually reached into northern Montana and to Forts Walsh and Battleford in Canada along the Benton Trail, now known as the Old Forts Trail.

William returned to join his brother and also went to work for the Bakers. In 1873, William and Charles secured an interest in the Baker firm and its name changed to I.G. Baker, Brothers and Company. The firm supplied the newly-arrived Northwest Mounted Police with all their supplies, served as financial agents of the Canadian government, and delivered the Mounties' payroll. During this period, the firm had fourteen trading posts and annually purchased 30,000 buffalo robes and \$100,000 worth of pelts and furs. Its freighters carried 500 tons of goods. Bakers' steamers, including the Red Cloud, the Benton, and the Colonel MacLeod, ran between St. Louis and points north to Fort Benton until the business closed out in 1882 with the impending advent of the Northern Pacific. The Conrad brothers also established the Globe National Bank at Fort Benton.¹²

In the mid-1870s, Charles married a Piegan woman, Sings-in-the-Middle, who bore him a son. This was a legal marriage, likely performed by a Catholic priest. Sings-in-the-Middle chose to leave her husband and their son, Charles E. Conrad, Jr., and return to her father and her people. Charles promised to care for and educate the child, which he did. In 1877, Charles was a successful negotiator for the peace treaty, Treaty No. 7, which ended warfare between the British government of Canada and the five tribes of the high plains.¹³

In 1878, the Conrad brothers secured control of the Baker business interests and in 1881 Charles married Alicia Stanford. Before he proposed, however, he had to discover the whereabouts of his Indian wife whom he had not seen since their separation. Charles, Jr., at this time, was in school in Montreal. Conrad sent a messenger to find the first Mrs. Conrad. The messenger discovered that Mrs. Conrad had taken a second husband and died in childbirth, thus, freeing Charles to marry again.¹⁴

Other Conrad brothers—Joseph, John, and Warren Ashby—joined Charles and William in Montana and all were involved in various business ventures, but it was Charles who took the lead. In the 1880s, the brothers heavily invested in the cattle business and owned thousands of head of stock. They later owned sheep as well. Ranching yielded Charles and his brothers the greatest portion of their wealth. Conrad Price Cattle Company, Conrad Circle Cattle Company, and Queen of the Hills Mining Company were some of their vast business interests.¹⁵

Charles associated with James J. Hill to become the driving force behind the Kalispell Townsite Company. He was instrumental in building the first steel truss bridge in Northwestern Montana in 1894. The townsite company spent \$10,000 constructing roads to the future site across the Flathead River, and donated \$7,500 toward the construction of the bridge. The bridge "changed the economy of this section of Montana" by providing the first direct route from Bigfork to Kalispell.¹⁶

Conrad enabled Kalispell's school district to acquire suitable property and donated the land for Central School. The block where the Flathead County Courthouse stands and Woodland Park were also donated by the townsite company through the generosity of Charles Conrad. He founded the Conrad Banking Company in Kalispell in

¹² Great Falls Tribune, 11/28/02.

¹³ Northwest Digital Archives, Guide to the Conrad, Campbell, and Stanford Family Papers 1818-1968 online catalog at <http://nwda-db.wsulib.wsu.edu/ark:/80444/xv47199> accessed 7/7/12.

¹⁴ *Half Interest in a Silver Dollar*, 44; 94-95.

¹⁵ G. M. Houtz, "Conrad Family of Early Fort Benton, Great Falls, and Kalispell Contributed Much to Early Day Development in North Montana," *Great Falls Tribune*, 3/3/37.

¹⁶ Jon Axline, *Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges 1860-1956* (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2005) 32-33.

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1891. The Conrad National Bank of Great Falls and the W. G. Conrad Bank & Trust Company at Helena were also founded by the Conrad family.

The Conrad brothers made some of their fortune from trafficking in buffalo hides and tongues during their freighting days in Fort Benton. Charles was one of few who began to realize that the animals were rapidly becoming extinct. Two local ranchers, Charles A. Allard and Michael Pablo, had nurtured a small herd of wild buffalo. When these ranchers died, the Allard-Pablo herd was portioned out and Charles acquired some of them. He bought a ranch in the Flathead Valley where they thrived to become the nucleus herd of the National Bison Range at Moiese and contributed to the herd at Banff, Alberta.¹⁷

Charles was still a relatively young man when he died at 52 in 1902 of congestive heart failure and complications of diabetes. In 1892, doctors diagnosed diabetes and predicted that he would live another ten years before the disease ravaged his body. There was no treatment at this time except diet and exercise. The doctors' prediction came true. Conrad left a wife and four children: two daughters Alicia and Katherine, a son Charles D., and Charles E., Jr. He left half his estate to his wife and the rest equally among his children. Charles, Jr., however, died two years later, never realizing his share of the family fortune.

Not only was Charles Conrad an uncanny businessman, he was also a modest, unassuming, generous person who did much to benefit his adopted state. He was not afraid to undertake large projects and was generous and accessible to all. He was a genial host, admired by his associates, and genuinely liked by those who knew him.

The Conrad Mansion, which Charles built in 1895 and was listed in the National Register in 1975, is a community treasure, donated to the people of Kalispell by the Conrad's daughter, Alicia Campbell.

Alicia ("Lettie") Stanford Conrad

Halifax, Nova Scotia was the birthplace of Alicia "Lettie" Conrad. Her family was wealthy and Lettie was very highly educated for a woman of her time. She was a skilled pianist, a very proper lady, and she loved adventure and travel. Lettie was 18 in 1879 when she, her mother, and a younger brother traveled by steamboat to Fort Benton in Montana Territory. Her father died when Lettie was 16 and his death devastated the family. Lettie, her mother, and brothers were used to all the luxuries wealth could buy; however, their father's business ventures soon dried up, and within two years, they had no income.

One of Lettie's brothers joined the military and was stationed at Fort MacCleod in Alberta, Canada. During his time at Fort MacCleod, Lettie's brother became good friends with Charles Conrad, who was often at the fort. The Stanfords decided to move from Nova Scotia to Fort Benton in Montana Territory to be closer to him. Soon, Lettie and a partner opened a school for children. As very few young, single women lived in Fort Benton, and few as beautiful as Lettie, young men often came calling, but it was Charles who won her heart.

Lettie was probably a better manager than she was a mother. Her two older children went to boarding school after the eighth grade and were only home during summer vacations. But Lettie ran a perfect household, oversaw the servants and cared for her mother and her mother-in-law who both lived with the family. Lettie always actively served in the community. The *Daily Interlake* called her "one of the most public spirited and best known women in northwestern Montana." She took an active part in public welfare issues, and her acts of charity and kindness were widespread.¹⁸

¹⁷ *Half Interest*, 194-195.

¹⁸ *Daily Inter Lake*, June 28, 1923.

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After Charles' death in 1902, Lettie became the administrator of his estate. She kept the household running as before, and constantly opened her home to anyone in need of a place to stay. Botanists from Glacier Park, biologists, artists, writers, musicians—all were welcome in the Conrad home. Lettie also took charge of the buffalo herd and eventually knew more about managing a wild herd in captivity than any person in the United States.

The Salvation Army and the Red Cross were Lettie's pet projects. She served as chairperson of the Flathead Chapter of the Red Cross, and with her efforts, this chapter exceeded all others in the northwestern district with one exception in Minnesota; it equaled, but did not surpass, the Flathead chapter. During WWI, she served as Regional Director of the organization and traveled extensively in this role. During the Spanish flu epidemic, Lettie directed nursing efforts and relentlessly recruited volunteers. Each Christmas, she held a party for all Kalispell's needy children. This event was held for many years and the community admired her tremendously for it. Lettie died quietly in her own bed surrounded by her family on June 24, 1923. Rev. H. S. Gatley of the Missoula Episcopal Church said at her funeral that her reputation was state-wide. "Despite great responsibilities and a very busy life," he said, "she had retained a close contact with people in all walks of life, and had ever been ready to give of her time and substance where most needed."¹⁹

Development of the Conrad Cemetery

The relocation from Demersville to the Kalispell townsite saw many buildings moved on log rollers to their new locations. The new town boomed, but residents were reluctant to entirely sever their Demersville ties, especially to the cemetery where some left loved ones behind. The simple pioneer burial ground was like so many others across the West. A wagon road cut across the middle from east to west and north to south, creating four quarter sections. This pioneer burial ground had no formal landscaping, no caretaker, and little to recommend it. Yet from its first burial in 1887 throughout the 1890s, the Demersville Cemetery remained the main local cemetery; today contains approximately 1,330 interments and it is still in use. However, as Kalispell passed its first decade, the usual small urban churchyard cemeteries and private family burial grounds began to dot the Kalispell townsite.

Charles and Lettie Conrad watched as Kalispell quickly grew, and both had great faith in its economic success and future. Like parents watching children mature, they wanted the best of everything for the community they fostered. Both agreed that the town's last great necessity was a cemetery, one that would be grand and beautiful and affordable, and most important, open to all residents, regardless of religion, social status, or ethnic origin. During the 1890s, as Kalispell continued to use the old cemetery at Demersville, it became obvious that the town needed its own burial ground. And Charles Conrad was running out of time.

Charles battled diabetes for ten years, fighting his doctors' prediction that the disease would eventually take his life. He knew the end was near one fine sunny autumn afternoon in 1902 when he and Lettie rode their horses out to the promontory. This beautiful spot overlooking the Whitefish and Stillwater Rivers and the Flathead Valley was a favorite haunt. They visited this spot where the land narrowed to a point many times and always found it breathtaking. They dismounted, as Charles seemed tired, and let the horses graze. Charles had not expressed his burial wishes until this time. He told his wife he wanted to be buried at this point saying that there could be no more peaceful and lovely a spot for a place of final rest.

Charles died on Thanksgiving Day November 27, 1902. Shortly before his death, he directed his attorney, G. H. Grubb, to purchase the beautiful point and the 10 acres that surrounded it. This was no obstacle since, as

¹⁹ *Half Interest*, pp. 239-245; 292-294; *Daily Inter Lake*, June 25, 1923.

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Kalispell's acknowledged founder, Charles was beloved by the community. Just a few days before he died, Charles also drew a sketch of the family mausoleum as he wished it built with the dimensions required and materials to be used. He positioned it at the northernmost end of the promontory, on the narrow point. Below this grassy outcrop, the land fell steeply to the Stillwater River. Following his funeral, Conrad's body was placed in a temporary receiving vault on the point while the mausoleum underwent construction. His was the cemetery's first interment, but other burials occurred very soon after.²⁰

After her husband's death, Lettie Conrad gave Mr. Grubb instructions to purchase the entire 87-acre promontory. She had a great vision that the land could serve as a resting place for all the people of Kalispell, regardless of income or social status, for now and for their future generations. However, there were two obstacles. First, the purchase of 87 acres was complicated because the parcels of land had multiple owners and second, Montana had no legislation allowing for a memorial cemetery with perpetual care.²¹

Grubb set to work on these problems while Lettie and her youngest daughter Alicia began to visit cemeteries across the United States and in Canada and Mexico in search of the right design. Perhaps through the family's association with James J. Hill, the Conrads met Arthur W. Hobert, superintendent of Lakewood Cemetery of Minneapolis. Lakewood, founded in 1871, followed the "rural garden" plan and was a nonprofit, nondenominational cemetery like the cemetery Lettie envisioned. Hobert, a landscape architect, visited Kalispell and told Lettie, "I cannot improve upon God's architecture. My advice is to disturb as little as possible. Do not move a shovelful of earth that is not necessary. You already have one of the most beautiful cemetery sites in the world."²²

Hobert's approval amplified Lettie's enthusiasm for the project and its seemingly slow progress was frustrating. On April 22, 1904, ten men formed a temporary organization at Lettie's request. Under the name of C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery Association (CMCA), the group was to manage the property given to them as a gift from Lettie Conrad. Finally on April 27, 1904, Lettie acquired the last piece of the 87-acre promontory.

After Charles' death, he was never far from Lettie's thoughts. In the evenings when the day's work was finished and the weather was good, her driver harnessed the horses and brought the carriage around. Lettie would be waiting. They drove the short distance to the cemetery along the carriage path. Lettie would alight from the carriage below the narrow point of land and climb the Fairy Steps to the mausoleum. There she would spend a few minutes in quiet meditation at her husband's grave and return to the carriage seemingly refreshed and reinvigorated. The steps, built at the same time as the mausoleum, first served only Lettie and the immediate Conrad family. But as the carriage road became obsolete with the advent of the automobile into the 1920s, the steps took on a different purpose. Generations of Kalispell children visiting the cemetery amused themselves scampering up and down the Fairy Steps. The steps are fraught with myth and legend. Supposedly if you count the steps going down, and count them again on the way up, the number is never the same.²³

Attorney Grubb prepared and presented the legislation Lettie Conrad inspired. He was instrumental in drafting the legislation that set up the legal authority for a Cemetery Association. The association would regulate and guarantee proper administration and perpetual care so that no legal cemetery in Montana would ever become a "weed patch." On February 16, 1905, the Ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana passed Senate Bill #3 entitled, "An Act to Provide for the Formation of Cemetery Associations, to Define Their Powers and

²⁰ *Great Falls Tribune*, November 28, 1902.

²¹ A "perpetual care cemetery" is a cemetery for which a permanent maintenance fund has been established, and it was this that Lettie was striving for.

²² *Half Interest*, 231.

²³ *Half Interest*, 244; personal communication with sexton James Korn, May 18, 2012.

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Duties and to Provide for their Management and Control.” The legislation provided the legal framework for an interest-bearing fund, generated from a set percentage of the sale of lots that assured a cemetery’s maintenance in perpetuity. It also established the setting up of a five-member Board of Trustees and laid out their rights, powers, and duties. Lettie’s foresight and her insistence that this idea be introduced in Montana was remarkable. Less than two months later, the Cemetery Association met and formed a corporation. The corporation filed the papers on April 8. William F. Tucker, an English immigrant, was hired as the first caretaker. The C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery thus became the first successful perpetual care cemetery in Montana. One of Tucker’s first duties was to remove all wooden markers from the graves, indicating that already the cemetery was in regular use.²⁴

The first concern of the association was water. An independent waterworks plant was essential, but expensive. In 1906, the trustees started a water fund. The president had the power to negotiate a loan payable over 6 years not to exceed \$3,000. In 1907, engineer J. B. Gibson reported that the water supply was inadequate to “maintain the beauty and success of the Cemetery grounds.” The Trustees acquired perpetual use of 100 miners’ inches from the flume of the Kalispell Industrial Company and installed a covered flume system and a No. 120 Rife Ram with an 80 gallon per minute capacity. A 36-gallon wooden tank was installed on the grounds and a system of 110 hydrants and 800 feet of lawn hose watered the grounds.²⁵

In 1908, the Conrad Mausoleum was completed and Lettie invited guests to attend the interment of her husband as he was consigned to his chosen final resting place. Lettie wrote a personal invitation to Trustee H.C. Keith. Finishing the mausoleum was the final piece of Lettie’s great undertaking, completing her vision of a serene and peaceful eternal repose for her beloved Charles.

During its first years, the CMCA permanently established the roads and pathways in the cemetery, and determined that no marker on a single grave exceeded 16 inches in height. They sought Hobert’s counsel on some issues including the proper types of receptacles for flowers on the graves. They procured hay to feed the horses used for maintenance and heavy cemetery work. They decided upon rates for digging vaults and graves. Digging a grave for a child, for example, 10 years or under, cost \$3 and for a person over 10, \$5.²⁶

In 1909, the original rules were amended based on a change in the law. At this time, the CMCA designated 15 percent of all proceeds from the sale of lots for the permanent care and improvement fund of the association, using interest only for perpetual care. This did not include special care of monuments placed on lots by their owners. Individual owners could establish a special care fund at a minimum of \$100. Interest could be applied to maintenance of monuments, stones, annual planting and caring for flowers.²⁷

None of the Trustees at this time had any previous experience with cemetery associations. As of January 1, 1910 the CMCA sold 338 lots of the 978 burial spaces and made 407 interments. About 40 acres of the total 87 had apparently been divided into plots. The Trustees struggled with weeds growing in the gravel drives. They tried hand weeding, chemicals and mechanical treatment with wood burners. In addition, the water system was still not adequate. The Trustees filed water rights on the Stillwater River, built a flume to the cemetery’s water tank, and contracted with the Kalispell Industrial Company for joint use of the flume and dam. Finally in 1912, the

²⁴ *Laws, Resolutions and Memorials of the State of Montana Passed at the Ninth Regular Session of the Legislative Assembly* (Helena: State Publishing Company, 1905) 32-44; *Billings Gazette*, 11/16/02. C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery Association Minutes, 6 volumes 1905-1988 at the Conrad Memorial Cemetery, Kalispell, MT, Vol. 1, p. 8; 14.

²⁵ Conrad Cemetery Minutes, vol. 1, p. 15; p. 19;

²⁶ Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 44.

²⁷ Conrad Minutes, Vol. 1, 50.

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Trustees decided to buy the dam and mill site of the Kalispell Improvement Company, and give the city a permit to use all surplus water for a fee and ½ the cost of necessary repairs to the plant.²⁸

Discussions about raising rates and comparison with other cemeteries in Helena, Butte, Missoula and Spokane led to raising costs significantly in 1922. All lots henceforth sold on a basis of \$1 per square foot and the costs of services also increased. In 1937, the deposit to Perpetual Care Fund increased from 25 percent to 30 percent. In 1939, the cemetery first permitted the burial of jars of ashes. In the 1930s and again in 1951, the CMCA acquired the flat lands lying just west of the cemetery. That area today is used by the county as the Conrad Complex Ball Field, held in reserve for future expansion. By the 1980s, there was \$450,000 in the perpetual care trust fund. The cemetery, according to Lettie's vision, is affordable for all people. It is indeed a "a vast democracy of the dead" as garden park cemeteries were intended.

Today, the cemetery owns enough property to accommodate interments of Kalispell families of all socio-economic levels for the next 200 years. In addition, planning and legislation ensures the cemetery never becomes a "weed patch," exactly as Lettie Conrad intended.²⁹

Landscape Architect Arthur W. Hobert

Born in Ottawa, Illinois August 14, 1858, Arthur W. Hobert was educated in the public schools of Ottawa and studied dentistry. He practiced for five years until health concerns forced him to leave the profession. He married Bessie Berry in 1883 and in 1885, they moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he worked for the Park Board for four years. He became interested in cemetery design and planned Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis. He served as superintendent until 1891 when he became superintendent and secretary of Lakewood Cemetery.

Hobert continued his work planning cemeteries, and concentrating on landscape architecture resulting in him opening his own business. His accomplishments include planned cemeteries at Portland, Maine, and Lafayette, Indiana, the C. E. Conrad Cemetery in Kalispell, Montana, and cemeteries in other small cities in Minnesota and Iowa. Hobert also was in charge of landscaping for The T. C. Rapid Transit Company at Minnetonka and other points. Hobert advertised recreation and landscape work. He died in 1920 while still superintendent at Lakewood.³⁰

Design Elements of the Conrad Cemetery

Arthur Hobert drew his plans for the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery basing the design on a combination of ideas as they evolved in Europe and the United States during the 19th Century. Hobert had experience in architectural landscaping and horticulture, and had a decade of experience, shaping Lakewood Cemetery where he was superintendent. He incorporated the past and present to create a plan suitable for the Conrads. The park-like setting was a concept first employed in the sprawling manor gardens of the English countryside that were intended to seem natural, but were in fact carefully groomed. This idea, coupled with the French model of Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, coalesced in the 1830s in the first rural cemeteries in the United States. Hobert took all of the Conrads' requirements into account and created the plan Lettie Conrad envisioned.

The cemetery reflects the evolution of the rural garden "park" concept, integrating the three phases characteristic of American rural cemetery evolution. The first phase includes the use of the natural environment; winding,

²⁸ Conrad Minutes, Vol. 2, 23.

²⁹ *Half Interest*, 232.

³⁰ Albert Nelson Marquis, Ed. *The Book of Minnesotans: A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Living Men of the State of Minnesota* (Chicago: A. N. Marquis Company, 1907)233-234.

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hilly pathways that follow the contour of the landscape melding both in harmony, and artistic tombstones placed in an orderly fashion. The second phase promotes the cemetery as a park-like lawn retreat where the public can stroll and enjoy the natural surroundings. Instead of the pathways found in the earlier European and American cemetery parks, visitors in this later version crossed the green grass to reach their loved ones' graves. The third "memorial park" phase required the use of embedded tombstones which preserves the expansive, lawn-like grassy areas with the use of embedded tombstones, making the lawn seem continuous and pristine. The Conrad Cemetery and its various sections incorporate all three of these of these design phases.

The following list provides a glimpse into a few of the 17,000 internments in the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery:

Montana Governor R. B. Smith served from 1897 to 1901 during the Spanish American Insurrection as the third governor and left a stellar record. His knowledge of common law was infallible. He was on a visit to Kalispell in 1908 when he died of uremic poisoning and was thus buried here.

Montana Governor John E Erickson served as Teton County Attorney from 1897 to 1903, then was elected District Judge of the 11th Judicial District from 1904 to 1912. He was governor of Montana from 1925 to 1933, dubbed "Anaconda Company's candidate."

Grace Erickson, former Montana First Lady, founded the Last Chance Restoration Association in Helena, a group preservation group that created the Pioneer Cabin Museum, predating Charles Bovey's celebrated restoration of Virginia City.

John Eugene McCarthy, Sr. was a Union soldier who came west working for the Northern Pacific. He became a buffalo hunter and railroad grader and carried the first mail to Libby, Montana. He died in December 1903 and was among the first persons buried in the Conrad Cemetery.

Reverend George McVey Fisher, held the first religious service in the Flathead Valley in a log school house at Ashley in 1886. He sold his extensive property in the Flathead Valley to the Kalispell Townsite Company. With some of the profit, he built one of the early churches in the valley.

Fred Whiteside, state senator, blew the whistle on the crooked first Capitol Commission and on copper king William A. Clark for selling votes in Clark's bid for US Senator. For his honesty he was ousted from the legislature. He later helped secure the funding that built the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton where a vaccine for Rocky Mountain spotted fever was discovered.

James A. Ford joined the Civil War at 18 and served under General Grant at Vicksburg and under Sherman during his famous march to the sea. He also served as one of the first four alderman in Kalispell, 1892.

Lillian Peterson was the longtime Flathead County school superintendent. Peterson School is named for her.

Dr. Susanna Gyorffy was born in Hungary to a family of scientists and they were displaced by WWII. She and her sister came to the United States and chose to remain in Montana. Dr. Gyorffy was credited for her work in the development of synthetic Vitamin C.

Fred Herring cow punched for Teddy Roosevelt on his North Dakota Ranch. He served under Roosevelt as a Rough Rider in the Cuban campaign. Roosevelt appointed him first ranger at Ant Flat Ranger Station in what would become Glacier National Park.

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John “Jack” Fisher struck it rich near Fort Steel in Canada and smuggled \$80,000 in gold, tax free, into the US. He blew it all in San Francisco and struck it rich again in Montana near Libby Creek, thus the name of Fisher River. He died in 1906; his grave was unmarked until recently.

Josephine Doody was former saloon girl who shot and killed a man in Colorado. She claimed self defense, but before her trial, she escaped by train and came to Montana to hide from the law. She married a railroad worker who tied her on a mule, took her to a cabin, and locked her in to dry her out from an opium addiction. She survived and distilled moonshine during Prohibition, escaping the occasional Colorado bounty hunters and revenue officers that came looking for her.

John Gustave Thompson’s epitaph reads “Grand Old Man of Baseball;” he pitched for the Pittsburgh Pirates for several seasons and in the first World Series game in 1903. Managed a semi pro team in Kalispell and was instrumental in creating the old ball field, Griffen Park.

John E. Lewis was the builder of the 152-room Lewis Glacier Hotel on Lake MacDonald in Glacier Park in 1914. He sold the hotel to the Great Northern Railway in 1930 and moved to Kalispell. The hotel is today known as Lake McDonald Lodge.

W. C. Whipps established the Northwestern Bank of Demersville, the first in Flathead County. He served three terms as mayor of Kalispell and suggested the idea President Theodore Roosevelt that led to the creation of Glacier Park.

William J. Brennan was a state senator, nationally known attorney, and delegate to the National convention in 1904 that nominated Theodore Roosevelt for president. He helped lay the cornerstone with President Roosevelt for the Arch at Yellowstone National Park and the first Superintendent of the Forest Reserve under that Legislative Act.

George H. Grubb was the Conrad family’s attorney, close business associate and longtime friend. He drafted the 1905 legislation that allowed perpetual care in Montana and was a Cemetery Trustee for many years.

Emma Ingalls was a newspaperwoman and editor/owner of the Daily Inter Lake after her husband died in 1898. She “sometimes wielded a caustic pen,” ran her homestead and was reputedly the first to irrigate in the Flathead Valley. Emma Ingalls, with Maggie Hathaway of Ravalli County, were elected to the Montana Legislature in 1917, the first two women to serve in the state.

Harry C. Keith, president of the First National Bank and vice president and general manager of the Kalispell Mercantile Company, was heavily invested in Kalispell’s commercial success. He was a confidant and friend of the Conrad family and one of the first Trustees of the CMCA.

Frank Bird Linderman—trapper, cowhand, woodsman, newspaperman, editor, merchant, politician, author—did it all and earned the name Sign Talker with a Straight Tongue from the Indians who respected him. He wrote five volumes on Indian lore, interviewed elders, knew sign language, and was adopted into the Blackfeet, Crow, and Cree tribes.

Sid Logan was 10 years old when his father was killed at the Battle of the Big Hole. He was a Kalispell attorney in partnership with William Brennan, served as the fifth mayor of Kalispell in 1902, and was involved in many civic improvements including securing funds for the Carnegie Library (now the Hockaday Museum).

Arthur Merrifield was one of Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders. The two became close friends and Roosevelt owned a third interest in Merrifield’s North Dakota cattle operation. When Roosevelt became president he

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appointed Merrifield U.S. Marshall. When Roosevelt visited Merrifield in Kalispell, he also visited the Conrads as all were friends.

Harry Stanford, Alicia Conrad's younger brother, arrived at Fort Benton with his mother and sister in 1879 at the age of 10. He served on the Fort Benton police force and then became Kalispell's first police chief. He later was a taxidermist of some renown.

George Francis Stannard came from Ireland, but lived in France and spoke fluent French. He was a civil engineer. Platted the town of Demersville for T. J. Demers, and was a key figure in several difficult situations negotiating with Native Americans because of his language abilities.

Henry James Thol was a nineteen-year-old firefighter from Kalispell who was one of thirteen young men who lost their lives in the Mann Gulch fire in the Helena National Forest in August of 1949. Norman Maclean's highly acclaimed *Young Men and Fire* documents this tragedy.

William James Hellman, Jr. from Columbia Falls, was another victim of the Mann Gulch tragedy. He was 24. Norman Maclean in *Young Men and Fire* describes the Mann Gulch fire as a tragedy that is "without consolation of explanation, and a controversy without lasting settlement."

Kokoa Baldwin Conrad was the first white child born on the Blackfeet Reservation. Her father was Major D. Baldwin, former Indian agent. The Baldwins were a prominent Kalispell family. She was the first wife of Charles D. Conrad and the mother of Billy.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

HISTORIC CONTEXT FOR CEMETERIES

Evolution of Cemeteries

Burial in the earth and entombment above ground are only two ways humans devised to dispose of the dead. Scaffolds, trees, bodies of water, and caves are some of the other places man placed his dead. This careful placement is indicative of the human condition, and sets man apart from other life forms: "Only man dies. The animal perishes."³¹ Ancient civilizations, including the Greeks and Romans, had cities of the dead outside urban areas; Egyptians built elaborate tombs. Today, there are many types of historic cemeteries including churchyard burial grounds, ethnic cemeteries, potter's fields, veterans' cemeteries, and memorial parks. Cities of the living always included places for the dead. But large, planned and landscaped cemeteries are a product of both necessity and artistic invention.

The idea of burial in designated places dates back thousands of years. The cemetery is the final resting place; the grave the final bed. The word "cemetery" in fact derives from the Greek verb *koiman*, "to put to sleep." Rituals for preparation of the loved one for eternal rest extend back to the dawn of time in all cultures. Failure to prepare the deceased for the afterlife was the ultimate insult. Sojourning Chinese, in fact, who joined the western gold rushes paid "bone collectors" who made sweeps through the mining camps. Death on foreign soil with no family to care for their remains was the worst thing possible for these adventurous men. For miners who had this insurance, the collector gathered the bones of those who had died and shipped them back to China where family could care for their remains.

³¹ Martin Heidegger, quoted in Keith Eggner, "Building on Burial Ground," The Design Observer Group, 2010 at <http://places.designobserver.com/feature/building-on-burial-ground/22588/> accessed 7/6/12.

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Generations of churchyard burials and private family burial places covered the rural and urban countryside throughout Europe. These small cemeteries over time became full. Because of its grossly overflowing urban cemeteries, a critical situation arose in Paris in the 18th century. Other conditions added to this problem. Executed criminals were denied Christian burial and typically hung and left to rot where they died. Bodies dumped in the sewers during epidemics further created extreme health hazards. The stench and potential for disease was dire. Residents feared the *miasmas*, or clouds, of terrible stench that permeated Parisian streets and alleyways. Under cover of night during the winters between 1785 and 1787, the remains of thousands buried in small cemeteries throughout Paris were removed to the underground catacombs, once home to thieves and cutthroats. Cemeteries on the outskirts of Paris replaced these inner city burial grounds. One of the first was the famous Père Lachaise Cemetery which opened in 1804. Drawing upon the English landscaped garden setting, its innovative planners applied these principles to a cemetery for the first time. Its natural rural setting, planned walkways, and funerary art attracted international attention.³²

Père Lachaise was different from all other cemeteries in another very important way. The common practice for the middle class was to rent burial space for six to twenty years. After this time, the remains were disinterred and removed to the charnel house, a receptacle for storing bones to make room for other burials. The concept of perpetual care was unheard of until Père Lachaise allowed middle class families to purchase perpetual burial rights. This cemetery fostered a greater respect for the dead.³³

Cemeteries in the United States

Burial trends in the United States followed a similar pattern. There were no large cemeteries before the 1830s. Deceased residents in early urban areas were placed in very small neighborhood burial grounds accommodating a few families, most often associated with a church or parish. There was no formal landscaping, maintenance or watering. Plots followed a haphazard or simple grid, or none at all, with a wagon road or driveway sometimes providing access. Families planted, weeded, watered, and cared for their own small plots that were quickly filled. When the family moved on or died out and stopped visiting, “the personal touch, the scrubbed look, and the feeling of human presence” diminished, and these ordinary little cemeteries lost their souls. They became unsightly patches of weeds and tangled vegetation, forgotten and untended.³⁴

Urban burial places and old churchyard grounds became crowded, inadequate, and even dangerous. Walls collapsed when flooding occurred sometimes sending generations of burials, one on top of another, out into the open. Horrific scenes of floating coffins and exposed remains—a mixture dubbed “bone gumbo” in the south—and reminiscent of the horrors of Paris were equally disgusting to their American counterparts. During times of cholera, typhoid, and yellow fever epidemics, exposed remains brought well-founded fears of spreading diseases. Cities became more crowded, real estate costs rose, and “cemeteries were seen as the last great necessity.”³⁵

Beginning in the 1830s, American cemeteries went through three distinct stages of change. From 1830-1855, the “rural” or “garden” cemetery movement was dominate. The rural cemetery movement promoted the image of

³² “Père-Lachaise Cemetery: A Brief History,” website at <http://northstargallery.com/pages/perehist.htm> accessed 7/6/12.

³³ David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univeristy Press, 1991) 3.

³⁴ Jackson, Kenneth T. and Camilio Jose Vergara, *Silent Cities: the Evolution of the American Cemetery* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1989) 33.

³⁵ Keith Eggener interview with Rebecca Greenfield, 3/16/11, in “Our First Public Parks: The Forgotten History of Cemeteries,” at <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/03/our-first-public-parks-the-forgotten-history-of-cemeteries/71818/>, accessed 7/6/12.

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peacefulness surrounded by nature, a contrast to the previously held negative views of cemeteries. “Rural” cemeteries included landscaped grounds and romanticized monuments on the eve of the Victorian era.

In 1831, construction of Mount Auburn Cemetery at Cambridge, Massachusetts (designated a National Historic Landmark in 2003), began a movement to establish expansive, planned cemeteries in the United States. Mount Auburn served a dual purpose. It alleviated the crowded conditions of small, overfull urban cemeteries that many believed spread disease. It also provided a pleasure ground for families to enjoy a park-like setting while commemorating their loved ones. Residents in dire need of recreational areas flocked to the new “garden park” and Mount Auburn became the model for other cities.

Although Mount Auburn was meant to appear realistic, it was in reality very carefully designed. Hills and trees were left alone, becoming part of the cemetery’s attraction. General Henry A. S. Dearborn, Dr. Jacob Bigelow, and other members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society followed English landscape garden concepts as they were applied at Père Lachaise. Mount Auburn was not only intended as a pleasure garden and a place to reflect, but also a place of history where young people could look to the deeds of those buried there and come away full of hope and ambition for what they might accomplish in their own lives. Mothers could take their children to the cemetery to “instill a cheerful association with death,” negating the usual connotations, so children would not be afraid of it.³⁶

Mount Auburn and the American garden, or rural cemetery, movement it sparked gave rise to the creation of like cemeteries across the United States. Philadelphia’s Laurel Hill, opened in 1836, was the second American rural cemetery of similar design. Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland in 1838, and Green-Wood Cemetery overlooking Manhattan in Brooklyn, New York in 1839 followed. During the mid-19th century, garden cemeteries overlooking the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Puget Sound in Seattle and the Pacific Ocean in Santa Barbara provided a solution to the age-old problem of what to do with the dead. These rural cemeteries also set a trend to return to the ideas of the Greeks and Romans to bury the dead outside the cities.

Although the working class plots were in less desirable locations, rural garden cemeteries provided America’s first public open spaces where all were welcome and inspired the American Park movement. The artistry of these American cemeteries depended upon their natural settings and served crowded urban populations in need of open spaces and recreation. The movement also encouraged professional landscape architecture. Opportunity abounded in the creation of lagoons and waterways, bridges and winding paths, adding garden species to the trees and native plants already established in the natural settings. Metairie Cemetery outside New Orleans, for example, was built over a horse racing track. The architect utilized the flat, barren oval field for the main roadway and added other ovals incorporating adjacent thickets and ponds of the natural swampland.³⁷

Garden cemeteries increasingly became art galleries where visitors could soak up culture. Chapels, monuments, and mausoleums on the grounds offered wonderful opportunities for the display of art in the form of architecture, sculpture, and stained glass. The family mausoleum was an expression of wealth and social status. Made popular by Queen Victoria after the death of her husband Albert in 1861, these tombs gained in popularity in cemeteries across the United States.

Rural garden cemeteries evolved into the “lawn” and “memorial park” cemetery movement from about 1855 to 1920. The lawn cemetery in the later 19th century included driveways instead of walking paths and great expanses of open grassy areas. Lawn cemeteries employed flush markers that left the lawn visually intact or

³⁶ Richard E. Meyer, ed. *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture* (Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1992) 293-298.

³⁷ *Silent Cities*, 19; Henri A. Gandolfo, *Metairie Cemetery: An Historical Memoir* (New Orleans: Stewart Enterprises, Inc., 1981) 17.

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other types of regulated markers. In the 20th century, Lawn cemeteries became memorial cemeteries, like the Conrad for example, with the addition of perpetual care under a non profit or business organization.³⁸

The first crematorium in the United States was built in 1876 in Washington, Pennsylvania. By 1900, many American cemeteries offered this option. Today, 25 percent of all bodies in the United States are cremated.³⁹

Montana Cemeteries

Like most states in the Rocky Mountain West where trading, mining, and cattle brought the first waves of settlers, Montana's earliest cemetery history reflects violent deaths from vigilante hangings, gunshot wounds, mining accidents, and deadly epidemics. Most Montana mining camps had a Boot Hill where early citizens were buried who died in the prime of life, "with their boots on." These remnant cemeteries still exist in some communities including Bannack, Virginia City, Elkhorn, Marysville, and Coulson (near modern-day Billings). Burial was simple and, lacking tombstone makers and stone carvers, graves were unmarked as often as not. A survey of Helena's cemeteries in 1883, for example, revealed that only one-fourth of all the graves in the city were marked.⁴⁰ Death was unceremonious and cemeteries were casual places, haphazard and untended, and reflected the attitude that death was swift and mourning short lived.

While each community has its own unique story and circumstance, there are some common threads. Some communities that moved beyond the camp phase to grow into cities and towns abandoned their first burial grounds in favor of better locations as the urban streetscape encroached. Other added to early burial grounds. Park-like cemeteries, at first informally planned, evolved into places of public enjoyment. Drawing upon the "garden park" movement, Montana's larger cities like Bozeman, Billings, Butte, Missoula, and Helena began to cultivate park-like cemeteries with formal landscaping and sculptured monuments. These Montana cemetery parks developed in the later 19th and early 20th centuries and like Mount Auburn, were public places where residents went to enjoy nature, recreate, and reflect. Bozeman's Sunset Hills, Billings' Mountview, and Butte's Mount Moriah evolved from smaller cemeteries into larger, beautifully landscaped, tended parks. Missoula's City Cemetery and Helena's Forestvale Cemetery, like the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, were architecturally planned and landscaped from the onset. Even today, not all cemeteries offer perpetual care. This feature, although attempted with the founding of Helena's Forestvale, did not emerge successfully in Montana until after the Conrad model and its attendant legislation passed in 1905.

Sunset Hills Cemetery, maintained under Bozeman Parks and Recreation, was established in Bozeman in 1872 on a scant 5 acres of land donated to the city. Located on East Main Street adjacent to Lindley Park, it was not originally intended as a public park-like cemetery. It was informally laid out and by the early 1900s became untended and over grown. In 1910, Elizabeth Bogert helped establish a local cemetery board. Her brother, five-time mayor of Bozeman John Bogert, had died and was buried there in 1895. Elizabeth saw that water lines were brought in and weeping birch and spruce trees planted, and overgrown graves cleaned and weeded. The park-like ambience, laid out in two gentle rectangles with curved corners, evolved over the early decades of the 20th century. Today, the park totals 71 acres; 38 are in use and include nearly 18,000 interments.⁴¹

³⁸ Grant Peckenschneider. History and Development of Greenwood Cemetery, <http://www.uni.edu/connors/history.html>, accessed 7/18/12.

³⁹ Cremation statistics, http://www.ehow.com/facts_7184310_average-cost-cremation.html, accessed 7/6/12.

⁴⁰ *Helena Daily Herald*, June 2, 1883.

⁴¹ Historic Cemetery Walking Tour, <http://www.bozemancvb.com/pdf/historiccemetery.pdf>, accessed 8/2/12; Sunset Hills, <http://files.usgwarchives.net/mt/gallatin/cemetery/sunsethills.txt>, accessed 8/2/12.

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Billings' Mountview Cemetery is the largest and oldest cemetery in the Yellowstone region but did not achieve its present park-like appearance until 1920. A small private family cemetery opened on the site in 1882 maintained by the prominent O'Donnell family. This older section is laid out in a series of six interlinked circular drives with an original wide wagon road running north and south. In 1920, the City of Billings purchased the O'Donnell burial ground and added land that today totals 65 acres. The newer Mountview was then laid out with loop drives winding around 16 sections. Characteristic of the park cemetery, both natural and planted deciduous and evergreen trees lie along the curving driveways and in natural random fashion enhancing the grounds. The cemetery, at Central Avenue and Regal Street, is adjacent to a golf course on the west side. Like the Conrad Cemetery, Sunset Hills is a perpetual care cemetery with 35% of its plot sales invested into the Perpetual Care Fund.⁴²

While cemeteries usually were located in rural areas partly for aesthetic reasons, in Butte health and sanitation were of extreme concern and location was of the utmost importance. Mining everywhere created ground disturbance and early urban burials did not always remain underground. Two fraternal groups, the masons and the Oddfellows, founded Mount Moriah at 2415 S. Montana Street and platted the flat ground in square blocks in 1877. At first it only included four sections. The block pattern in Butte was less an aesthetic function of the lawn-park movement but more a necessity since there was no landscape to accommodate curving driveways, just flat, barren soil. As much as the community wanted a cemetery that served as a location of beauty, in 19th century Butte this was impossible. Open hearth smelting polluted the area and prevented anything from growing. The cemetery was bleak and ugly, and individual plot owners cared for their own plots. Butte's citizens, however, made up for the lack of landscaping by placing fanciful and lovely tombstones on their loved ones' graves. Butte has the most unique and attractive cemetery art of any Montana city. The desire to create "a spot of beauty" was at first far-fetched. But by 1905, as smelting centralized in Anaconda, trees and shrubs began to revegetate. The cemetery reincorporated by 1917, installed a water system, and planted 4,000 Canadian poplars. The superintendent researched which plants would grow in Butte's soil resulting in the cultivation of 17 kinds of trees and 30 kinds of shrubs. An optional Perpetual Care Fund was not established until 1936.⁴³

Missoula Cemetery, with over 21,000 interments, encompasses 80 acres. Half of the grounds are in use and 40 acres are reserved for future burials. The cemetery began as a small private cemetery established three miles from the town's center by a group of businessmen. They purchased the initial 14 acres from the Northern Pacific Railroad for \$168. County surveyor Harry V. Wheeler formally platted the cemetery in 1885 in block sections with roads to the outside. One diagonal road bisected the grounds. Alleyways accommodated horses and carriages, and some stations featured large hitching areas in square and circular patterns. The alleyways also accommodated the early irrigation system which tapped into the fairgrounds once located nearby. The roads bore the names of the virtues (Fatih, Hope and Charity), trees, and flowers. In 1901, the City of Missoula purchased the cemetery for \$1. The city appointed a board of 6 trustees. Its mission to "develop a tranquil and dignified park setting for the burial of the deceased." The original roads and alleys were somewhat reconfigured in 1925 to accommodate automobile traffic and large circular roundabouts added. The board's mission, however, remains the same today. The cemetery was not planned as a perpetual care facility.⁴⁴

Lack of space in the old city cemetery prompted city fathers to purchase 160 acres two and a half miles outside Helena. Forestvale Cemetery, at 490 Forestvale Road, was a planned park-like cemetery formally designed by

⁴² Mountview, Billings, MT., <http://ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=100>, accessed 8/1/12.

⁴³ Zena Beth McGlashan, *Buried in Butte* (Butte, MT: Wordz & Ink, 2010) 25; 30-36.

⁴⁴ Missoula City Cemetery (1884-present) <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/412> accessed 8/1/12.

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civil engineer Harry V. Wheeler, who previously planned the Missoula Cemetery. Although the area was bleak and treeless, Wheeler created a natural-looking attractive setting with looping driveways and orderly plot rows following the contours of the graceful loops. He created a small lake with a tiny island and a grand entry gate. The cemetery, listed in the National Register in 1990, was planned as a perpetual care facility, but perhaps because there no governing legislation existed, it eventually went defunct. The Helena Cemetery Association incorporated and stockholders included many prominent Helena residents. The Association developed the site, provided landscaping, a water system, and sold lots. The Association also established the permanent Endowment Fund and a Perpetual Care and Improvement Fund. The Association's charter, however, expired in 1910. Some of Trustees owned 99% of the stock, and several other Trustees filed suit against them claiming poor management and misappropriation of funds. The court forced them to sell the property to the newly formed Forestvale Cemetery Association in 1919. Eventually the Endowment and Perpetual Care funds were depleted and the cemetery fell into serious disrepair. After several periods of revitalization, the county now provides permanent upkeep and perpetual care is an option today. The cemetery includes more than 14,000 interments on 40 developed acres of its current 148-acre holdings.⁴⁵

Among these high style Montana cemeteries, the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery deserves foremost discussion. Unlike any other Montana cemetery, it was thoughtfully sited, carefully planned by a professional landscape architect with years of experience in the field of cemetery management and horticulture, and legally organized as a perpetual care facility. While other Montana cemeteries may today appear similar, these evolved into garden parks or memorial cemeteries, unlike the C.E. Conrad memorial Cemetery which was originally designed as such. Forestvale Cemetery is a partial exception in that its plan was intended as a garden park. However, it contains neither embedded tombstones nor sweeps of grassy areas indicative of the lawn/memorial park movement; in addition, its early attempt at perpetual care system failed.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 87 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

NAD27

A	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701172</u> Easting	<u>5342684</u> Northing	E	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701464</u> Easting	<u>5342033</u> Northing	
B	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701226</u> Easting	<u>5342626</u> Northing	F	4	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701233</u> Easting	<u>5342010</u> Northing
C	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701659</u> Easting	<u>5342541</u> Northing	G	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701217</u> Easting	<u>5342405</u> Northing	
D	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701790</u> Easting	<u>5342672</u> Northing	H	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>701102</u> Easting	<u>5342558</u> Northing	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at point A at the northwest corner of the property, the boundary trends southeast for about 300 ft.(point B) where it then runs about 1600 ft. (point C) in an east-southeast direction. From this point the boundary heads northeast for 400 ft. to point D. It then turns south and runs along the eastern edge of the cemetery for almost 2500 ft. to point E where it turns west for about 800 ft. (point F). The boundary moves north for about 1400 ft. along the west edge of the cemetery to point G, where it turns northwest and travels about 500 ft. to point H, returning to Point A.

Please refer to the sketch map of the property showing the defined property boundary found on the Continuation Sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the land included in the original design and/or actively used portion of the cemetery.

C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Baumler
organization Montana Historical Society date July 2012
street & number 225 North Roberts telephone _____
city or town Helena state MT zip code 59620
e-mail ebaumler@mt.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: C.E Conrad Memorial Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Kalispell
County: Flathead State: MT
Photographer: Ellen Baumler
Date Photographed: May 2012
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ____.

Please see Continuation Sheets

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name C E CONRAD MEMORIAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
street & number PO BOX 822 telephone _____
city or town Kalispell state MT zip code 59903-0822

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Location of C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Found on the Kalispell, Montana 1962 (photorevised 1982) 7.5' Quadrangle Map.

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C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery

Name of Property

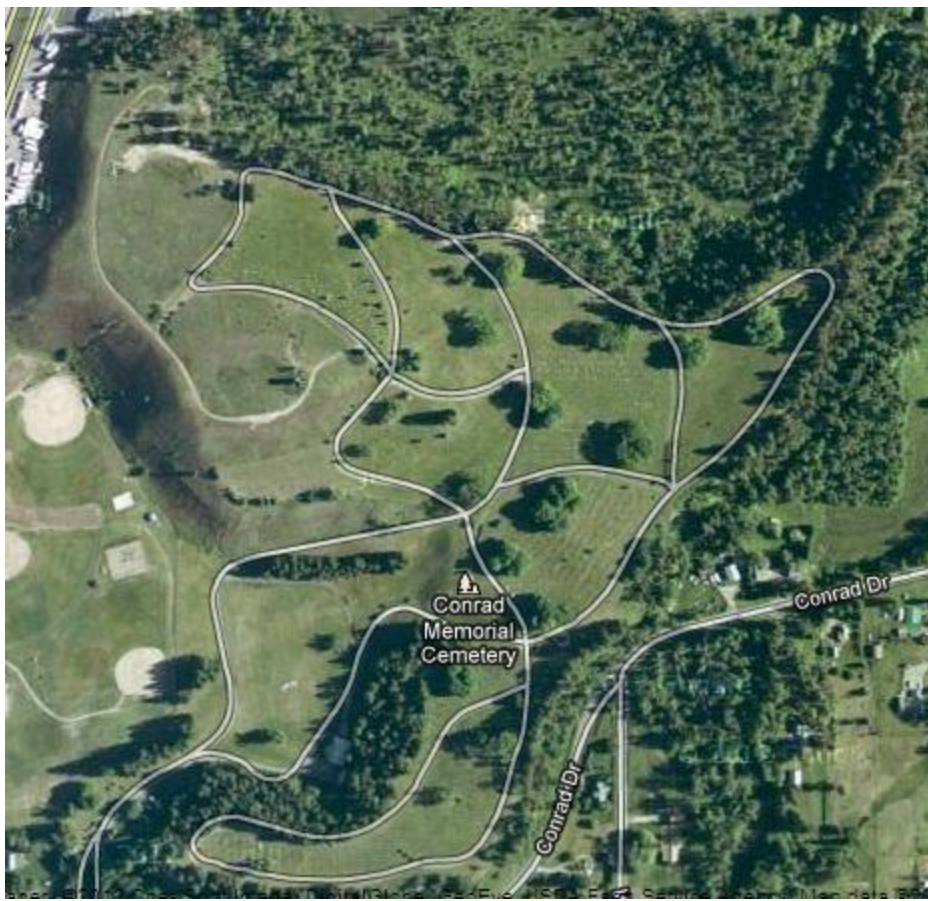
Flathead County, Montana

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Aerial view of the C.E Conrad memorial Cemetery

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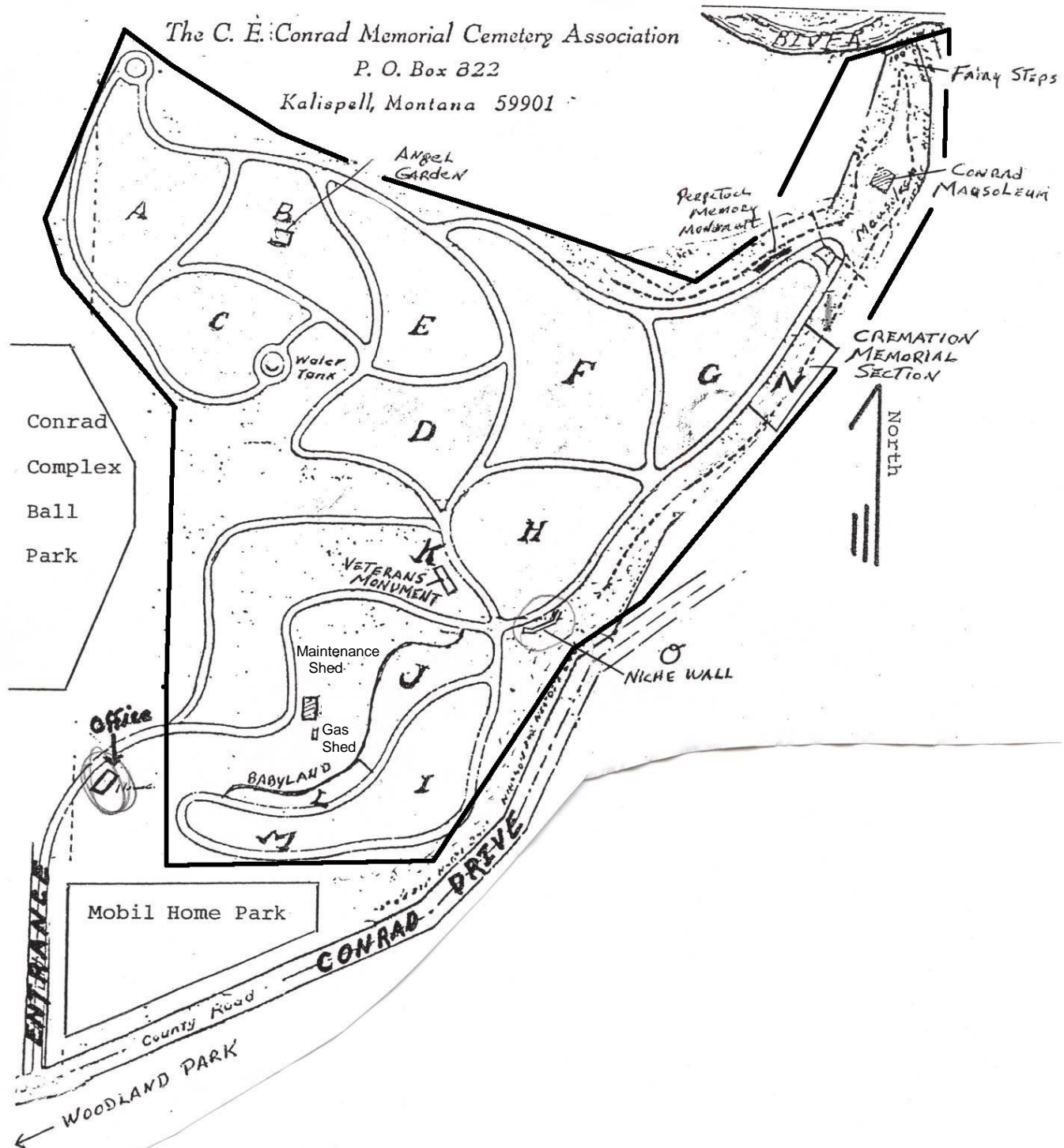
C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery

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Sketch Map of the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery showing nomination boundary.

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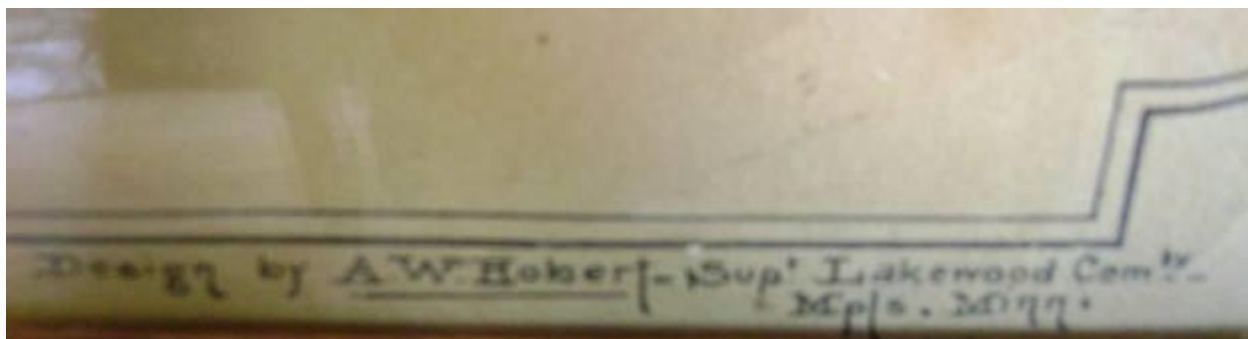
C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery
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Arthur Hobert's plan of the cemetery dated 1903 in the lower right corner. Below is Hobert's signature at the bottom of the above plan drawing.



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National Register Photographs

All Photographs:

Name of Property: C.E Conrad Memorial Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Kalispell

County: Flathead

State: MT

Photographer: Ellen Baumler

Date Photographed: May 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:



Photo #0001 Northeast view of Section K with embedded markers, view north from the gate.

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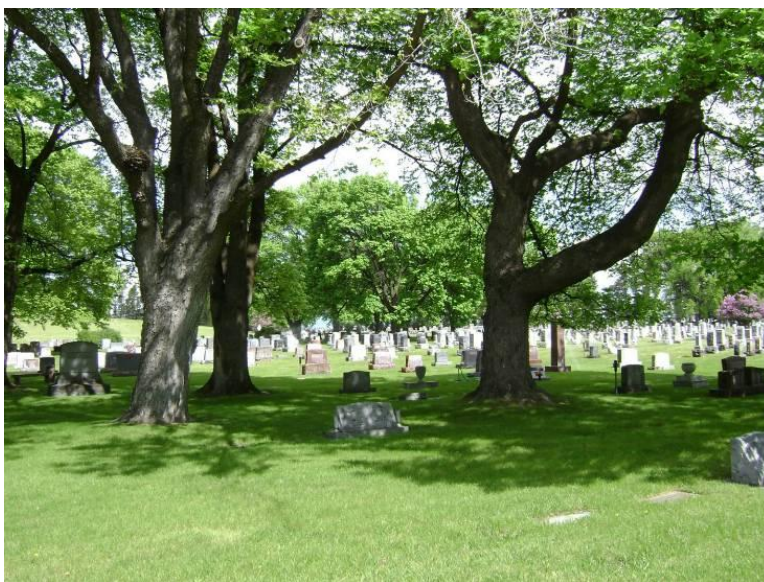


Photo #0002 Random old growth trees, newer plantings, and orderly upright markers.



Photo #0003 Embedded markers and curving driveways resemble a tended lawn

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Photo # 0004 Chokecherry and other natural trees and shrubs blend with placed plantings.

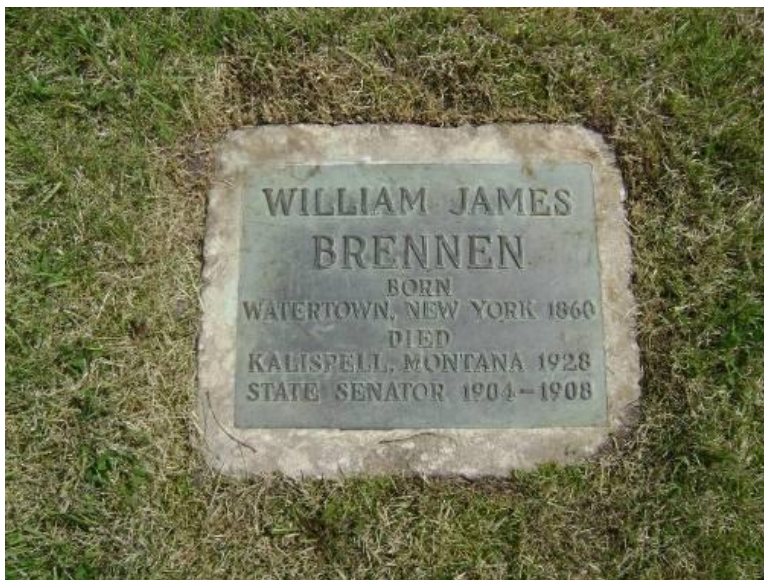


Photo #0005 Headstone of Senator William James Brennen

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Photo # 0006 State Senator Fred Whiteside's monument, Section H.



Photo #0007 Conrad Mausoleum, south facade, view to the north.

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Photo #0008 Conrad Mausoleum, north (rear) elevation, view to the south.



Photo# 0009 Conrad Mausoleum, west elevation, view to the east.

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Photo# 0010 Conrad Mausoleum, east elevation, view to the west.



Photo# 0011 Headstone of Alicia Conrad Campbell; located immediately south of the Conrad Mausoleum.

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Photo# 0012 Concrete surveyor's point.



Photo# 0013 North elevation, south approach to the grassy point and Conrad Mausoleum, view to the north.

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Photo# 0014 Fairy Steps near the top of ridge, winding around retaining wall, view to the west.

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Photo# 0015 Bottom of the Fairy Steps, near valley floor, view to the east.

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Photo# 0016 Concrete buttressing on the east slope (top); near carriage path, view to the east.



Photo#0017 Retaining wall near Fairy Steps, view to the east.

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Photo# 0018 Child's tombstone, 1902, Conrad Cemetery.

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Photo#0019 Water Tank, looking west across embedded markers of Sections E and D.

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Photo# 0020 North and east elevations, Governor Smith obelisk, Section H

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Photo# 0021 Overview of upright markers, view to the north.



Photo# 0022 Veterans Section K and Section H, view to the east.

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Photo# 0023 Veterans Memorial, Section K, north elevation, view to the south.



Photo# 0024 Memory Wall, view to the southeast.

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Photo# 0025 Columbarium Section N, view to the east.



Photo# 0026 Columbarium, Section O, view northeast.